

Hostages of the Heart

Matthew 5:21-26

Anger builds a prison if you give it asylum.

Terroristic Threats:

1. Anger is the inward conspirator of murder.

a) It seeks to demean others. *raca*

b) It seeks to devalue others. *moros*

Apply: Sin can't be contained at a behavioral level.

How's the heart of your *Christianity*?

Don't treat your sinful nature like a pet!

2. Anger sabotages my relationships.

a) Anger sabotages my relationship with God. 23-24
*leave your offering, **first** be reconciled...*

b) Anger sabotages my relationship with my brother. 22-24

c) Anger sabotages my relationships in community. 25-26

3. Anger morphs passiveness into divisiveness.

a) Take the initiative.

b) Guard your tongue.

c) Keep the door open.

Challenge: Don't give anger a foothold of bondage.

* Pray Psalm 139:23-24. "Search me... test me... lead me."

* Ask God for a plan to reconcile.

* Leave vengeance to God as you initiate reconciliation.